

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the time of the outstanding Office action, claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-16, and 18-27 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 24 are currently amended in the application. Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-16, and 18 -27 are currently pending in the application.

In the current Office action, claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-16, and 18-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gibbons et al. (US 5032009) in view of Gibbons et al. (US 6407789).

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejection in view of the above amended and pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

During a personal interview with the Examiner on April 27, 2004, Applicants' representatives proposed to amend the independent claims to clearly include an alignment layer, for use in a liquid crystal cell, comprising liquid crystal being irradiated, and the liquid crystal cell having liquid crystal filled between first and second substrates of the cell. The Examiner agreed that it appears that Gibbons et al. (US 5032009) fails to disclose the alignment layer comprising liquid crystal being irradiated (proposed claimed language).

It is respectfully submitted that neither Gibbons et al. (US 5032009) nor Gibbons et al. (US 6407789), nor the combination thereof, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 11, and 24 define allowable subject matter. Since claims 2, 4-10, 12, 14-16, 18-23, and 25-27 are dependent from claims 1, 11, or 24, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4-10, 12, 14-16, 18-23, and 25-27 define allowable subject matter as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

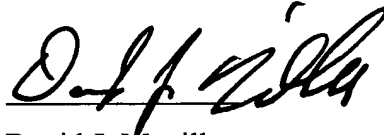
Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

Docket No. 200047.00005

Serial No. 09/656,742

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account of Hahn  
Loeser +Parks LLP, Account No. 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Muzilla", written over a horizontal line.

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Date June 4, 2004

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